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Message Text

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22
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 /023 W
---------- 024936
R 030621Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4579
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 3157

STATE FOR CU/NEA, CV/CP

USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: AREA TOUR OF REPERTORY THEATRE COMPANY

1. POST WOULD LIKE TO MOUNT A MAJOR CULTURAL PRESENTATION IN THE SPRING OF 1977. AFTER CONSULTATION WITHKEY MISSION OFFICERS, POST BELIEVES REPERTORY THEATRE COMPANY PERFORMING LOCALLY-APPROPRIATE AMERICAN PLAYS WOULD BE IDEAL IN PROMOTING CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING.

2. POST ENVISIONS A TOP-NOTCH UNIVERSITY REPERTORY THEATRE COMPANY TOURING THE AREA, GIVING TWO POSSIBLY THREE PLAYS/PLAYLETS IN EACH MAJOR CITY. VARIATIONS IN PROGRAM COULD BE THEATRE WORKSHOPS AND/OR READINGS, DEPENDING ON THE LOCAL SITUATION.

3. U.S. UNIVERSITIES SHOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY FOR
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TOUR AS IT WOULD ENHANCE THEIR PRESTIGE AND ADD TO

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COMPANY'S PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE. WHILE TOUR WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE DURING SPRING SEMESTER, POST BELIEVES UNIVERSITIES WOULD BE WILLING TO GRANT CREDIT TO PARTICIPATING STUDENTS.

4. POST UNDERSTANDS PROJECT WOULD BE COSTLY. HOWEVER, POST BELIEVES THAT THE GAIN IN PRESENTING A VIBRANT ASPECT OF AMERICAN CULTURE IN COUNTRIES WHERE THE NAME AMERICA IS ASSOCIATED PRIMARILY WITH APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AND SUPERIOR ORGANIZATION, OUTWEIGHTS COSTS. FURTHERMORE, IF DHAHRAN IS INCLUDED IN SCHEDULING JIDDA/RIYADH, ARAMCO MAY BE WILLING TO FUND PART OF COST.

5. IF PROJECT APPROVED, POST WISHES TO APPROVE IN ADVANCE PLAY/PLAYLETS CONTEMPLATED DUE TO SOCIAL RESTRICTIONS IN COUNTRY. FOR SAUDI ARABIA, POST SUGGESTS THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

A) HONORABLE, PATRIOTIC (I.E. DEFENSEOF FAMILY, COUNTRY E.G. JOHN STEINBECK'S "THE MOON IS DOWN").

B) CIVIC (I.E. ACTIONS OF GOOD CITIZENS FOR THE GOOD OF COUNTRY AND PEOPLE, E.G. CITIZENS RALLYING TO THE RESCUE OF A DISTRESSED COMMUNITY; CITIZENS HELPING THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES WITH EMERGENCY PROJECTS--NOT WAITING FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SPOON-FEED THE PEOPLE.)

C) HUMOROUS, (A) INVOLVING UNIVERSAL TOPIC: THE MOTHER-IN-LAW, AND/OR (B) LABYRINTH-LIKE "BUREAUCRACY": ENDLESS CHANNELS, SIGNATURES, CONFERENCES AND FINALLY THE PROBLEM GOES BACK TO SQUARE ONE*, (C) SOMETHING LIKE "THE MOUSE THAT ROARED." IN SELECTING PLAYS/ PLAYLETS, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THOSE PLAYS REQUIRING LITTLE IN THE WAY OF PROPS AND SCENERY. SOME COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, LIKE SAUDI ARABIA, DO NOT HAVE TRADITION OF THEATRE AND THEREFORE IN-COUNTRY RESOURCES WOULD BE LIMITED.

6. POST WOULD APPRECIATE REACTION PRO/CON FROM ADDRESSEES AND INFO POSTS AND WILL INCLUDE MORE FULL-
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FLEDGED PROPOSAL IN CPP.
PORTER

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